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Setaria verticillata, Beauv. College farm, large as millet!

Panicum depauperatum, Muhl. Woodbine to Ames.

Lolium perenne, L., Ames, dooryards, to Denison.

Poa alsodes, Gray, Woodbine 1875, Humboldt, Prof. F. L. Harvey, 1875.

Eragrostis Purshii, Schrœd. Woodbine, 1875.

Festuca elatior L. Near Ames, 1876.

VARIATIONS.—The normal *Erythronium albidum* from Illinois to W. Iowa, noted for spotted, broad leaves and very recurved petals, confined to groves; while a much smaller form from W. Iowa to Kansas, confined to the prairies, has narrow leaves, never spotted, petals never recurved, not half the height of the former. The difference is doubtless due to soil and locality.

As far as known to me, I was the first to discover this form; while the value and beauty of the two forms must be seen as they grow, (not in *hortis siccis*), to be appreciated.

A still more noted variation is the two forms of *Cypripedium candidum*, the larger belonging exclusively to the Missouri "slope," W. Iowa, and at an invariable elevation of 100 feet above Boyer Valley (where it abounds,) on the steep, loose soil of the Sandy bluffs, no doubt to retain its original elevations here, and to the very verge of the "Divide," when we enter a new kingdom as to soil, air and flora! I never saw the smaller form till coming here, nor does it occur within 60 miles of the larger, the latter beginning at Woodbine, Harrison county, the former (as you advance eastward) at Carroll, Carroll county. The larger form seems more properly allied to *C. spectabile* than to *C. candidum*, and the two look like giant and pigmy side by side in a Herbarium.

Still much the same is true of the size of leaves in the eastern and western Iowa forms of *Lobelia spicata*.

Apropos of the surprising crop of *Valeriana sylvatica* appearing one year and all gone the next. In 1869 I saw a slough six rods or more long by 25 feet wide covered all over in one mass of white bloom, like snow, with our common *Ranunculus aquatilis*, while not one plant has appeared since, and I had to wait for seven years and go 212 miles to find a specimen, in Cedar River, 1876.

R. BURGESS, Ames, Iowa.

SOME HARDY DENTARIAS.—About the middle of this month, as I was botanizing in the woods I found many small patches of *Dentaria laciniata* in bloom. It was early in the morning, and almost everything was covered with hoar frost. This was the case with *Dentaria*. In most all of the patches, however, there were one or two plants not touched by the frost. While many were black and cracked between the fingers, a few retained their freshness, notwithstanding they were sometimes entirely surrounded by the others. Darwin in his "Variation of Animals and Plants," mentions this fact in regard to peas growing in his garden, and thinks that there is a difference in the constitution of individual plants, so that some are better able to withstand the frost than others. As the *Dentarias* referred to were all equally exposed and growing close together, the fact of some being frosted while others were not, cannot be explained by saying there was a difference in soil or exposure. Darwin's explanation is a good one and no doubt correct. The fact is certainly a curious one.—JOSEPH F. JAMES, Cincinnati, Ohio.

SOME KANSAS PLANTS.—On page 10, Vol. 1, No. 3. of the BOT. BULLETIN, G. C. Broadhead says of *Aethusa speciosa*: "It generally prefers a rich limestone soil of but a few inches thickness, resting on limestone." I have found just the reverse to be the case here, as it is quite common on the river bottoms where the soil is rich and deep, but I have never found it on the limestone bluffs where the soil is such as Mr. Broadhead describes; while *Aethusa Missouriensis* is abundant in such situations and avoids the bottom lands.

I found *Clematis ochroleuca*, Ait., in bloom April 28th, on the highlands between the Solomon and Republican rivers, Cloud county. I see Gray's Manual says it is rare,

and found near Brooklyn, N. Y., Pennsylvania and Virginia. I thought perhaps it might interest your readers to hear of it so far west as this Will some of your readers tell me how to preserve herbarium specimens of Cacti?—MATTHEW H. PANTON, *Junction City, Kansas*.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.—*American Journal of Science and Arts*, April. The Dictionnaire de Botanique, by M. H. Baillon, Paris, is in a fair way to become a bulky work. The third fascicle is now out and about 300 pages will be devoted to the first letter of the Alphabet. The Cretaceous deposits of Spitzbergen have yielded *Taxodium*, *Sequoia*, *Cyperus*, *Carex*, *Alisma*, seven Poplars, two Alders, three Hazels a Hornbeam, a Beech, four Oaks, an Elm, a Plane-tree, an Ivy, five species of *Cornus*, two of *Nyssa*, two of *Magnolia*, a *Tilia*, three Maples, three Hawthorns, and a veritable fossil strawbery! It seems that the American Mistletoe is making great ravages among the elm and black walnut trees in the latitude of Louisville, Ky. "As soon as a bunch of mistletoe fixes itself upon a branch, the outward extremity ceases to grow, and finally dies. The tree soon presents a clubby appearance, followed by death." The mistletoe grows in great abundance about Hanover, Indiana (forty miles from Louisville), but we have never appreciated that it was such a dangerous customer. It grows on the elm, walnut, honey-locust and various other trees, but we have yet to notice the first deadening effects. We are glad to have our attention called to it and will watch it more closely.

American Naturalist, April.—We quote: "Fournier gives as the result of his study of the grasses of Mexico the following statement: 'Among grasses with separated sexes, the female flowers differ very little, if at all, as regards the situation or form of the floral envelopes, when the sexes are borne on different plants; but when the plant is monœcious the glumes of the two sexes are widely different. These differences are most marked in certain genera of Chlorideæ, normally diœcious and accidentally monœcious.' The grass described by Engelmann under the name *Buchloe dactyloides* is a curious example in point. Beside this is now placed *Opizia stolonifera*, of which Presl had seen only the female plant. Although the female flowers of these plants differ very widely, their male plants resemble each other so much that they have been put in the same genus. *Casiostega humilis* is the male form of *Buchloe*, and *C. anomala* is the male form of *Opizia*." From the Flora of Colorado we quote the following sentence in regard to *Buchloe* as being of interest in this connection: "Nuttall, who had only the male plant, referred it to the genus *Sesleria*, and described it as *S. dactyloides* (Gen. 1. p. 64.) Steudel founded another genus on the female plant, *Antephora axilliflora*, (Glum. 1. p. 111). The true relationship between them was first detected by Dr. Engelmann, and clearly set forth by him in his masterly article in the *Trans. St. Louis Acad.*"

The Gardener's Monthly, April.—An article on "Self-Fertilization and Cross-Fertilization of Flowers," is begun by Mr. Meehan in this number.

Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club, March and April.—Francis Wolle adds one hundred species to the Fresh Water Algæ of our country, and C. F. Austin describes several new species of Mosses.

Field and Forest, April.—Mr. Martindale gives an interesting little note in regard to the Scandinavian herbarium which he purchased at the Centennial. He says that it contains about 1500 species and is probably one of the most complete representations of the flora of Sweden to be found in this country. He mentions two or three points of interest in comparison with our own flora. Sweden has 30 species of *Hieracium*, but only one *Aster* and one *Solidago*!

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